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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/730,574	12/07/2000	Noriko Kawasaki	35.C14985	9629

5514 7590 05/20/2005

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EXAMINER

GARCIA, GABRIEL I

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2624

DATE MAILED: 05/20/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/730,574

Applicant(s)

KAWASAKI ET AL.

Examiner

Gabriel I. Garcia

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 November 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 5-14 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 07 December 2000 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 11/24/04.

GABRIEL GARCIA
PRIMARY EXAMINER

- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. The objection to the drawings and the specification are hereby withdrawn by the Examiner in view of Applicant's amendment.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kaneda (5,214, 551).

With regard to claim 1, Kaneda teaches an apparatus having a carriage (3) to which a head member is mounted (see figs. 1-5) , comprising: a toothed belt (11) extends between a driving pulley (9) and an idler puller (14) and to which the carriage is attached (see fig. 1, items 10,19,12, 22, and 27, fig. 1, depict how an endless pulley goes around the driving pulley and an idler pulley); preventing means (2c) disposed at a position opposed to a back surface of said toothed belt in the vicinity of said driving pulley and adapted to prevent an idle rotation of said driving pulley with respect to said toothed belt (see figs 1-4 and col. 2, line 26 thru col. 3. line 46, e.g. fig. 4, depicts how the preventing means is incorporated into item 1, and the pulleys holding the tooted belt

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is opposed to the preventing means 2c, therefore, the preventing means is position opposed to the back of the toothed belt)

With regard to claim 2, Kaneda teaches said driving pulley is rotatably driven by a driving motor (see col. 4, lines 35-50).

With regard to claim 3, Kaneda teaches wherein said idler pulley is elastically biased by a tension spring in order to apply tension to said toothed belt (e.g. col. 5, lines 15-34).

With regard to claim 4, Kaneda teaches wherein said preventing means are opposed to a portion of said toothed belt to which said carriage is attached (see fig. 1 and col. 2, lines 26-41).

Conclusion

4. Claims 5-14 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The prior art of record does not teach an apparatus having a carriage to which a head member is mounted with the details as described in claims 5-14.

5. Applicant's arguments filed 11/24/04 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. With regard to Applicant's argument that there is no disclosure or suggestion of preventing means disposed at a position opposed to a back surface of a toothed belt in the vicinity of a driving pulley and adapted to prevent idle rotation of the

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driving pulley with respect to the toothed belt. Examiner asserts that Kaneda teaches preventing means disposed at a position opposed to a back surface of a toothed belt in the vicinity of a driving pulley and adapted to prevent idle rotation of the driving pulley with respect to the toothed belt (see figs 1-4 and col. 2, line 26 thru col. 3, line 46, e.g. fig. 4, depicts how the preventing means is incorporated into item 1, and the pulleys holding the toothed belt is opposed to the preventing means 2c, therefore, the preventing means is position opposed to the back of the toothed belt).

6. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.


7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **Gabriel I. Garcia** whose telephone number is (571) 272-7434. The examiner can normally be reached Monday-Thursday from 7:30 AM-

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6:00 PM. The fax phone number for official or informal faxes for this group is (703) 872-9306 .

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-2600.

Gabriel I. Garcia
Primary Examiner
May 13, 2005



GABRIEL GARCIA
PRIMARY EXAMINER